

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00712 260858Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 HA-05 IO-13 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8953

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0712

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM KS

SUBJ: KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT COUNCIL FORMED

1. AN ANNOUNCEMENT DATED ONLY JANUARY 1978 REPORTED THE FORMATION OF THE KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT COUNCIL TO PROMOTE FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA. THE DECISION TO FORM THE COUNCIL TOOK PLACE AT A HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION SPONSORED BY THE KNCC ON DECEMBER 29 OF LAST YEAR.

2. FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL APPEARS TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN, AND CREATE A FORMAL COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR SUCH HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES AS PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC CHURCH, ACTIVISTS, MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS, OTHER EMERGENCY MEASURE VIOLATORS, PROFESSORS FORCED OUT OF THEIR JOBS BY THE UNIVERSITY REFORMS, JOURNALISTS WHO WERE OUSTED IN THE TONGA ILBO DISPUTE AND OTHERS WHO HAVE MORE RECENTLY JOINED THE CAUSE.

3. REV. CHO NAM-KI, PRESIDENT OF THE KNCC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, WILL BE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW COUNCIL. INDEED THE KNCC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE THE BASIC

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 00712 260858Z

SKELETON OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION, PROVIDING IT WITH STAFF SUPPORT AND AN ADDRESS. FR. KIM SUNG-HUN OF THE PRIESTS COUNCIL FOR THE REALIZATION OF JUSTICE WILL BE VICE PRESIDENT, AND AN SONG-YOL, A FORMER TONGA ILBO REPORTER, WILL BE GENERAL SECRETARY. A GUIDANCE COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTAIN NAMES FAMILIAR TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN--YUN PO-SUN, HAM SOK-HUN, BISHOP CHI, CHO HWA-SUN

(UIM), MISS YI U-CHONG, KIM KWAN-SUK AND OTHERS. POET KO-UN, WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED AND RELEASED TOWARD THE END OF LAST YEAR, ALSO JOINED THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

4. IN FACT MEMBERS OF THE NEW COUNCIL ARE WELL KNOWN TO EACH OTHER AND HAVE WORKED TOGETHER ON VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN THE PAST. WHILE THE NEW ORGANIZATION FORMALIZES THEIR RELATIONS, IT MAY NOT (RPT NOT) IMPROVE THE COOPERATION THEY GLADLY EXTENDED TO ONE ANOTHER BEFORE. IN THE MINDS OF SOME DISSIDENTS, THE NEW COUNCIL DIFFERS FROM EXISTING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEES, SUCH AS THAT OF THE KNCC OR OF VARIOUS CHURCH DIOCESES, IN THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEES WERE PASSIVE BY NATURE, THAT IS, THEY SOUGHT JUSTICE FOR THOSE DETAINED FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, WHILE THE NEW COUNCIL WOULD BE A VEHICLE FOR ACTIVE PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY. OF COURSE, WHILE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS DID IN THE PAST ACTIVELY PUSH FOR GREATER DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM IN KOREA AND DID USE EXISTING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEES IN THEIR EFFORTS, THE CREATION OF A SPECIFIC ORGANIZATION FOR THIS PURPOSE PROBABLY REFLECTS THE NATURE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES BETTER.

5. FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL HAS RECEIVED NO (RPT NO) PUBLICITY FROM LOCAL MEDIA.  
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## Message Attributes

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